



PROGRAM  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE  
SOLDIER

**Project Manager Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment**

**Product Manager Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment**

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## Specifications

### ACU

- **Component materials:** 50 percent cotton/50 percent nylon treated to be wrinkle-free
- **Size:** 37 coat sizes, 36 trouser sizes
- **Color:** Universal Camouflage Pattern (Desert Sand 500, Urban Gray 501, and Foliage Green 502)

### FR ACU

- **Component materials:** 65 percent FR rayon (6.5-ounce Defender M<sup>®</sup>), 25 percent para-aramid, 10 percent nylon
- **Size:** 37 coat sizes, 36 trouser sizes
- **Color:** Universal Camouflage Pattern

### FR ACU-P

- **Component materials:** (All permethrin-treated) 65 percent FR rayon (6.5-ounce Defender M<sup>®</sup>), 25 percent para-aramid, 10 percent nylon
- **Size:** 37 coat sizes, 36 trouser sizes
- **Color:** Universal Camouflage Pattern, or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Camouflage Pattern for Soldiers deploying or deployed to OEF, starting in August 2010

## Program Status

All Soldiers get four ACUs in the clothing bag. Deploying Soldiers receive four FR ACUs. Starting in 2010, the FR ACU-P will be fielded to Soldiers deploying overseas. Permethrin factory treatment is scheduled to begin for all Army Combat Uniforms starting in 2012.

# ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM (ACU)



**The Army Combat Uniform (ACU) is a functional wardrobe system that can be tailored to situational demands.**

The Army Combat Uniform (ACU) consists of a jacket and trousers in the Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP) and is usually worn with a black beret or a patrol cap in UCP, a moisture-wicking T-shirt, and Army combat boots (temperate or hot weather). The ACU enhances Soldier performance because it can be tailored to the individual mission as well as providing enhanced functionality and ergonomic advantages over the Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Camouflage Uniform.

The ACU is worn with ancillary items, including hook-backed embroidered U.S. Army tapes, name tapes, and rank and shoulder sleeve insignia. The ACU is machine-washable and contains a wrinkle-free treatment, decreasing out-of-pocket expense to Soldiers for cleaning and starching.

Based on Soldier satisfaction surveys, durability, and cost, a number of significant enhancements are envisioned for the ACU, including buttons for the cargo pockets, a reinforced crotch, and improved attachment of the infrared tab.







### Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniform (FR ACU)

The Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniform (FR ACU) has the same design as the ACU but is made of advanced fire-resistant fabrics. The FR ACU is identified by a tab of green webbing sewn to the left sleeve cuff and left leg cargo pocket flap. The tab allows leaders to quickly and easily identify that their Soldiers are wearing FR uniforms. This uniform's FR properties provide the warfighter four seconds of protection before the material combusts. Once combustion occurs, the uniform quickly self-extinguishes when the heat source is removed. The fabric does not melt or drip, furthering reducing chances of injury to the wearer.

In response to a solicitation from the Army, the American textile industry responded with over two dozen FR fabrics. Extensive testing and evaluation resulted in 6.5-ounce Defender M<sup>®</sup> fabric being selected as the material of choice for the FR ACU. Defender M<sup>®</sup> provided the best combination of fire resistance, durability, and breathability while also closely matching the non-fire resistant ACU in texture and appearance. In late 2007, the Army began issuing two FR ACUs and two non-FR ACUs to each deploying Soldier. In early 2008, the Army began issuing four FR ACUs per deploying Soldier.

### Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniform-Permethrin (FR ACU-P)

The Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniform-Permethrin (FR ACU-P) has the same design and base FR fabrics as the FR ACU, but is also factory-treated with insect and tick protection. The FR ACU-P consists of a jacket and trousers in the Universal Camouflage Pattern. The FR ACU-P was developed to provide Soldiers a uniform with built-in protection against bothersome or disease-carrying insects and ticks. The permethrin treatment will continue to provide protection throughout the life of the uniform.

For Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the FR ACU-P will be fielded in the OEF Camouflage Pattern, starting in August 2010.

